

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

MARDOQUEO ABILIO MENDEZ MEJIA,

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

CJFOUR INC., et al.,

Defendant(s).

**USDC SDNY**  
**DOCUMENT**  
**ELECTRONICALLY FILED**  
**DOC #:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE FILED:** 12/9/2019

18-CV-4199 (PGG) (BCM)

**ORDER SCHEDULING SETTLEMENT  
CONFERENCE**

**BARBARA MOSES, United States Magistrate Judge.**

A settlement conference is scheduled before Magistrate Judge Barbara Moses on **January 7, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.**, in Courtroom 20A, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007.

1. Attendance Required. Plaintiff and his counsel must attend in person. The individual defendants, Janet Kim and Jennifer Kim,<sup>1</sup> must also attend the settlement conference in person. The Court presumes that one or both of these defendants has the authority to make settlement decisions on behalf of defendant CJFour, Inc. (CJFour). If not, a decision-maker with authority to settle the claims against CJFour (typically an officer, director, or owner) should also attend. If defendants engage counsel prior to the settlement conference, counsel must also attend in person. Counsel attending the conference must be fully knowledgeable concerning the facts of the case, relevant law, and the progress of the case to date, including settlement discussions. If a party or counsel who is required to attend the settlement conference fails to do so, that party or counsel may be required to reimburse the other participants for their time and travel expenses, or face other sanctions.

2. Pre-Conference Settlement Discussion Required. The purpose of a Court-facilitated settlement conference is to settle the case – not simply to begin a settlement dialog. The Court normally holds only one settlement conference per case. **The Court therefore**

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<sup>1</sup> The Clerk of Court is respectfully directed to substitute Jennifer Kim, who appeared in person at today's case management conference, for defendant Jennifer "Doe" on the docket sheet.

requires that, promptly after receipt of this Order, the parties conduct at least one good-faith settlement discussion, in person or by telephone, and that each party convey to each opposing party at least one good-faith settlement demand or offer, in advance of the deadline, set forth below, for submitting confidential settlement letters. Past settlement negotiations may not be relied upon to satisfy this requirement. Counsel should continue such discussions among themselves prior to the conference so as to clarify issues, narrow disputes, and otherwise make the conference as efficient and meaningful as possible.

3. Pre-Conference Exchange of Documents Required. Because this case involves claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act and the New York Labor Law, the Court further requires that the parties exchange all available documentation of the hours worked by and wages paid to the plaintiff(s), in advance of the deadline for submitting confidential settlement letters. In no event should the parties arrive at the settlement conference without having exchanged these documents, reviewed them, and prepared good-faith estimates of the wages and other amounts due to each plaintiff.

4. Assertion of Inability to Pay. In the event defendants' settlement position is based on their asserted inability to pay what might otherwise be considered a reasonable settlement amount, the Court further requires that defendants produce to plaintiffs' counsel, in advance of the deadline for submitting confidential settlement letters, documents sufficient to evidence their financial status. As discussed on the record at the December 9, 2019 conference, the documents to be produced shall include the most recent bank statement for each account held by Janet Kim, Jennifer Kim, and CJFour, as well as, for each such account, a bank statement from six months ago. Absent further order of the Court or the express agreement of the parties, these documents may not be further disseminated by plaintiffs' counsel and may not be used for any purpose other than good-faith settlement negotiations in this action. The documents may be

suitably labeled on production (for example, "CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT PRODUCED FOR SETTLEMENT PURPOSES ONLY PER FED. R. EVID. 408").

5. Confidential Settlement Letter. No later than **January 3, 2020**, each party shall submit a confidential settlement letter to chambers by email, addressed to Moses\_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov, marked "Confidential Material for Use Only at Settlement Conference." **Do not file the confidential settlement letter on ECF. Do not send copies to adverse parties unless all parties have agreed to exchange their letters.** Settlement letters are limited to six pages, not including any exhibits, which are permitted but should be kept to a minimum. Each letter should contain:

a. A summary of the relevant facts and law, focusing on the issues most pertinent to settlement. For example, if liability depends on an uncertain legal issue, the parties' letters should identify that issue and any key case law or statutes. Conversely, if liability is not seriously contested, the letters should focus on damages or other remedies.

b. A candid assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the case, including affirmative defenses, together with counsel's realistic assessment of its settlement value or range. If there are any extra-legal impediments to settlement, note them here.

c. A brief description of settlement negotiations to date, including the date and time of the parties' last good-faith settlement discussion and the terms of each party's most recent demand or offer.

d. Any other information likely to be helpful to the settlement process.

6. Acknowledgment Form. On the same date that the confidential settlement letters are due, each party shall submit the attached Acknowledgment Form to chambers by email, **and serve it on all other parties**, identifying the individuals who will attend the settlement conference. **Do not file the Acknowledgment Form on ECF.**

7. Conduct of the Conference. All proceedings at the settlement conference will be confidential. Discussions are "off the record," and may not be used in discovery or at trial. The Court will function as a mediator. Efficient use of this process requires that parties and counsel be prepared for the conference and candid with the Court. At the outset of the conference each party may make a brief presentation in the presence of all parties and counsel. Since the purpose of the conference is to facilitate settlement – not to try the case – presenters are requested to address their remarks directly to the opposing party and to focus on the issues most relevant to settlement. Following the initial joint session, the Court will work separately with each side in private. During these sessions the Court may address questions directly to the parties (in the presence of their counsel) and will expect candid responses. In addition, all parties should be prepared to disclose their legal fees and costs to date and their estimates of fees and costs through judgment. Additional joint sessions may be convened if likely to advance the goal of settlement.

8. Requests to Reschedule the Conference or Modify these Procedures. Requests to reschedule the settlement conference, or to modify the page limits, attendance requirements, or other provisions of this Order, must be made by letter-motion, filed via ECF in accordance with the Individual Practices of Judge Moses, as soon as the need for the adjournment or modification arises and in any event at least one week (seven calendar days) before the scheduled conference. Requests for adjournment must include two proposed dates, acceptable to all parties and counsel, for the rescheduled conference. Before proposing dates, counsel are advised to call chambers to determine the Court's availability. Requests to modify the attendance requirements will be granted only on a showing of significant hardship. If the parties settle the case prior to the scheduled conference, they must promptly so inform the Court by letter, filed via ECF, stating whether the settlement requires Court approval and, if not, how much time the parties require to submit a stipulation of dismissal to the district judge.

9. No Effect on Other Deadlines. Neither the scheduling of a settlement conference nor any adjournment affects the parties' other litigation deadlines or obligations.

Dated: New York, New York  
December 9, 2019

**SO ORDERED.**



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**BARBARA MOSES**  
**United States Magistrate Judge**

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM-SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

Counsel of record for each party must complete and sign this form and email it to the Court at [Moses\\_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Moses_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov), with copies sent simultaneously to all other parties, no later than one week (seven calendar days) before the parties' scheduled settlement conference.

**Name of Case:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Docket No.:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Sett. Conference:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Party Submitting this Form:** \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ **Pltf.** ☐ **Def.**

1. Acknowledgment by Counsel. I am lead trial counsel for the party listed above. I acknowledge my obligation to attend the settlement conference in this action in person, accompanied by my client (if the client is a natural person), or by a client representative (if the client is a non-natural person) who is a decision-maker with knowledge of the case and responsibility for determining the amount of any ultimate settlement. I further acknowledge that if insurance carrier approval, consent, or funding is required for my client to settle this action, a representative of each relevant carrier, who is a decision-maker with knowledge of the case and responsibility for determining the amount of any ultimate settlement (or the carrier's portion thereof) must attend the conference.

2. Client Attendance.<sup>†</sup> Check one box:

- ☐ My client is a natural person. My client will attend the settlement conference in person.
- ☐ My client is a corporation, union, agency or other non-natural person. The following individual will attend the settlement conference in person as a representative of my client:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Carrier Attendance.<sup>\*</sup> Check one box:

- ☐ No insurance carrier approval is required for my client to settle this case.
- ☐ The following individual will attend the settlement conference in person as a representative of the following insurance carrier:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Name of Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Lead Trial Counsel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Lead Trial Counsel

<sup>†</sup> If you represent more than one party or require approval from more than one carrier you must submit attendance information for all clients and carriers.